

## **Clara Belle Flanagan**

By herself

Clara B. Flanagan, daughter of Curtis and Clara Belle Modlin was born September 10, 1937 in Farmville, NC.

Clara grew up in Farmville, NC, a small farming community. She went to early school and high school in Farmville graduating in 1955. In high school she was interested in the band, art, academics and all the other things popular young girls find amusing. Farmville is a close knit community and she had many friends many of whom she still meets with and enjoys. After high school Clara attended Duke University where she earned dual degrees in Art History and Studio in 1959. Having had many science courses in college she was able to qualify as a researcher in the Duke Hospital anatomy department. She relates that after a couple of years of living with rats and slides she opted to get back into the art field.

After moving back to Farmville she taught in several of the area's community colleges and County Technical colleges. At the same time she continued her own artwork, primarily painting. She had some 17 solo art shows including one at the Lord and Taylor gallery in New York City. Over that period of time, Clara achieved many awards for "Best in Show" and first, second and third place winners. She built a house in Farmville specifically designed with the needs of an artist in mind. She made a study of light and the optimization of light in a studio setting. All of this was worked into the house along with space and facilities to carry on her mother's culinary tradition. (Thank goodness!)

Clara has been involved in the First Christian Church as a deacon and an elder. She has served on town committees where her obvious talents and interests could be brought to bear. She was on the "Celebrate 2000 Committee, Appearance (Tree) Committee, The United Way and the Town of Farmville Library Board. She has served on several of these committees for many years. She has been an advocate of art appreciation and art education for groups of people who wanted to know more about art and who wanted to try their hand at producing art.